



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: G. Maier et al

Patent Application  
Serial No: 10/671,663

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Examiner: Noah P. Kamen

Attorney Docket: A 91838

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.312

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of  
claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.